

August 14, 2014

Katherine Patras Carvalho
14 Maverick Street
Medford, MA 02155-7202
Re: Potential Merger of Hallmark Health & Partners Healthcare

Dear General Coakley,

I am writing this letter as a resident of the city of Medford to express *my support in favor of the planned merger between Hallmark Health and Partners Healthcare*. I have been a member of this community and a patron of the Lawrence Memorial Hospital of Medford throughout my entire life. Over the course of this time, the Lawrence Memorial hospital has provided exceptional healthcare services to me and my husband John, my mother Eugenia Patras (patron for the past 58 years) and my deceased father George Patras (patron for 48 years previous to his passing) in addition to my extended family members who live in the Medford area, as well.

The Lawrence Memorial hospital is recognized as a landmark and pillar of the community both as a healthcare provider and as a corporate citizen. They have proven their dedication to the community through various socially responsible initiatives to meet the needs of the community time and again, and have provided their patrons with the latest and greatest medical technology that has enabled people like me to receive optimal healthcare at the local level. As a community, we are so **very** fortunate to have local access to such a prestigious group of highly skilled and talented physicians within this region. In addition, the nursing staff continues to surpass expectations as proven by their consistent ability to achieve Magnet recognition. On so many occasions, my family and I have used the emergency room, urgent care facilities, and in-patient/outpatient services at LMH including the many various offsite facilities which are part of Hallmark Health. We have been extremely satisfied with the entire hospital organization and specifically with the doctors, nursing staff, and other allied health professionals that have diligently serviced us over the years.

It is vital that your office support the potential merger between Hallmark Health and Partners Healthcare in order to enable our community to maintain a local hospital presence. Partners can provide the much needed resources that will provide leverage and enable the hospital to sustain operations which will ultimately provide the community with an even higher quality of patient care. The partnership will formalize existing relationships between these two entities and enable them to join together and create synergy to share knowledge that can pave the way for future innovations and reduce the overall cost of medicine.

As you are aware, throughout the country there has been an ongoing trend for community hospitals to partner with larger affiliations as a means to strengthen their capacity; this strategy can ultimately bring greater benefits and services to the local community. As a community, we need your assistance to help embrace this merger. Please support Hallmark Health in their quest to merge with Partners so that, we too, as a community can move forward and together grow as a society. Most importantly, the hospital has contributed to the community above and beyond expectation over the years and should be given the opportunity to carry on their mission. This partnership can only add value to further enhance their exceptional level of service and high caliber of medical professionals.

Notably, it is also imperative that every effort be made to maintain the emergency room at the Medford campus so that those of us who live in the community continue to feel secure in the event of critical situations.

On behalf of myself, Katherine Patras Carvalho, husband John Carvalho, and my mother Eugenia Patras who reside at the above address we want to ensure that our voice is represented in the decision-making process. Please feel free to contact us should you need any other pertinent details regarding our existing relationship with Hallmark Health and the Lawrence Memorial hospital. Again, we truly hope that you will exercise your authority as the honorable Attorney General to support this endeavor which is in the best interest for our community.

Sincerely,



Katherine Patras Carvalho, MBA, MS, Ed.D (Doctoral Candidate)

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